

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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INFO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, UY

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES ARREST OF COMMUNIST PARTY FIGURES

REF: MVD-3800

1. THE GOU PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED THE ARRESTS OF JOSE JUIS MASSERA, FIRST SECRETARY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF URUGUAY AND FORMER DEPUTY AND SENATOR OF THE FRENTE AMPLIO, AND WLADIMIR ILITCH TURIANSKY. THE ANNOUNCEMENT MADE AT A PRESS CONFERENCE OF THE JOINT FORCES DECEMBER 23 SAID THAT UP UNTIL HIS DETENTION, MASSERA WAS ACTING AS CHIEF OF THE CLANDESTINE MARXIST/LENINIST MAVEMENT. TURISSKY WAS IDENTIFIED AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PARTY IN THE CNT LABOR CONFERDERATION. HE WAS ALSO A LOBOR LEADER AND WAS ELECTED AS A DEPUTY. WHEN HE WAS ARRESTED, HE WAS ACTING AS SECRETARY OF INFORMATION OF THE CLANDESTINE APPARATUS.

2. THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT SAID THE ARRESTS WERE DUE TO THE FACT THAT IN 1974 THERE HAD BEEN SEIZED A MICROFILM COPY OF A LIST OF THE ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY. THIS INFORMATION LED TO AN OPERATION RESULTING IN THE ARREST OF MASSERA AND TURIANSKY, AMONG OTHERS. INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM DETAINEES RESULTED IN THE DISCOVERY OF A CLANDESTINE MILITARY APPARATUS.

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THIS WAS MADE UP OF TWO PARTS: ON THE ONE HAND, THE SO-CALLED "POPULAR ARMY" ORGANIZED IN GROUPS OF DIVISIONS (CENTURIAS),

SECTIONS AND GROUPS WHIKU MADE UP POTENTIAL COMBATANTS FOR SUBVERSIVE OPERATIONS, WHILE ON THE OTHER HAND THERE WAS THE LOGISTICS APPARATUS WHICH INCLUDED ARMS DEPOSITS, PRODUCTION FACILITIES WHICH WERE CHARGED WITH THE FABRICATION OF ARMS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND THE MEDICAL SECTOR.

3. ACCORDING TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT, THE ORGANIZATION SEEMS TO BE MADE UP OF 3-400 INDIVIDUALS, BUT THE EXACT NUMBER CANNOT BE DETERMINED BECAUSE, ALTHOUGH THE ORGANIZATION IS CLANDESTINE, THE MAJORITY OF ITS MEMBERS HAVE ABANDONED IT BUT ARE STILL COFUFED AS MEMBERS SO AS TO ALLOW THE MOVEMENT TO PRESENT A POTENTIAL VOCH GREATER THAN THEY REALL HAVE.

4. AS MENTIONED IN REFTTEL, THIS ANNOUNCEMENT WAS EXPECTED TO BE MADE AT A TIME DEEMED CONVENIENT TO THE GOU. WHY CHRISTMAS EVE WAS PICKED IS NOT TOO CLEAR. PERHAPS IT IS HOPED THE POPULATION WILL SEE THE HARSH CONTRAST BETWEEN THE CLANDESTINE OPERATIONS OF THE COMMUNISTS AND THE PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS ATMOSPHERE NOW PREVALENT.  
SIRACUSA

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